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LETTER DATED 29 OCTOBER 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I am writing to lodge a strong protest over the intention of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, to carry out a population registration in that Serbian province.

It is only too obvious that the basic conditions for such an important undertaking are non-existent: the terror of Albanian separatists continues unabated and the violence against, and the ethnic cleansing of, Serbs, Montenegrins, Roma and other non-Albanians has not been stopped in a situation when over 250,000 of them have already been driven out of Kosovo and Metohija; over 200,000 foreign nationals have entered the Serbian province illegally due to inadequate border protection by the international security force (KFOR) and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK); and many major cities and towns, such as Pristina and Pec, have been almost completely ethnically cleansed. These conditions do not warrant a fair registration and would amount to a recognition of the fait accompli and further encouragement of the separatism, violence and terrorism of Albanian extremists.

In drawing this to your attention, I would like to inform you that the competent authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia are in possession of the correct data prior to the arrival of UNMIK and are in a position to carry out a regular registration once the conditions for it have been created. Also, it is within the exclusive competency of these authorities to issue personal identification documents, as it is the prerogative of sovereignty of every State.

The UNMIK plans to carry out a population registration in Kosovo and Metohija are in direct contravention of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and, as such, are rejected, condemned and will never be accepted by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

99-32240 (E) 011199

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.